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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7950  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0008  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0885

UNCLAS NICOSIA 000551

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DEPT FOR WHA/CCA, EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CYPRUS ALSO CONCERNED WITH INTERNET FREEDOM IN CUBA

REF: STATE 89911

Poloff June 29 delivered reftel points to MFA Americas Desk Officer Nikos Panayi. Noting that Cyprus also firmly believes open and free access to information on the Internet is "very important" to any modern society, Panayi assured Poloff that Cyprus understands that problems with Internet access in Cuba are a result of Cuban government restrictions and not U.S. sanctions. He said Cyprus hopes Internet access restrictions in Cuba can be lifted, but that the "ball is in Cuba's court" for any such actions. Panayi stated Cyprus would be open to raising U.S. requests for achieving Internet freedom in Cuba within the framework of a potential EU-Cuban dialogue.  
SCHLICHER